

THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE  
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

66TH STREET AND YORK AVENUE  
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

January 11, 1951.

C  
Professor Robert S. Breed  
6 Sunset Drive  
Geneva, New York

Dear Professor Breed:

O  
I was glad to receive Professor Lederberg's comments on nomenclature for bacteriophages. It may be that I should have written on page 1138 of the Manual "when heated in the presence of spores" instead of "when heated in spores", because it does not seem to be clear from the paper in Journal of Bacteriology 20:15-23 whether the bacteriophage was inside the spores or only elsewhere in the culture. Fortunately, the second statement in the text, under the heading thermal inactivation, seems to state the case more accurately. If the phrase mentioned above was not what Professor Lederberg thought to be contradictory to statements in the original paper, perhaps he will explain more fully.

P  
I was glad to note that Professor Lederberg considered data on viruses affecting plants and animals possibly adequate to admit the application of binomial nomenclature, and hope that he may later feel that the same is true for bacteriophages, the natural classification of which has indeed lagged in recent years.

Y  
I am always glad to have specific criticisms of nomenclature for viruses and have made a note of the apparent need for a slight change of phraseology in the present instance, as indicated in the first paragraph of this letter. I enclose herewith a copy of my letter to Professor Lederberg in which I have quoted the two sentences from the original paper on which, to a large extent, the statements on page 1138 of the Manual were based.

Sincerely yours,

F. O. Holmes.

CC: Prof. J. Lederberg

FOH:JR